

Sudan desert locust update 19-27 July, 2005

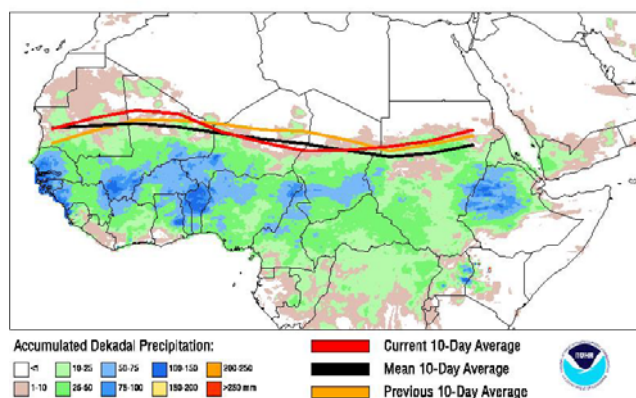
Summary:

The Desert Locust situation in West Darfur and North Darfur continued to further deteriorate. Hatchings and hopper developments continued in areas of recent rainfall. Control operations are being undermined by the security situation. Survey operations are in progress in North Kordofan, West Kordofan and North Darfur to the extent possible. Preparations are underway for similar operations in other regions.

Meteorological and ecological conditions

The Sahel section of the ITCZ over Sudan and the Horn remained north of the median position for the period and Western, Northern Darfur, and Western Kordofan received heavy rain on 21st July, 17th July and 24th July, respectively. Consequently, green vegetation and moist soil are becoming abundant over large areas in the region, thus creating favorable breeding conditions over vast areas.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
July 2005 Dekad 2



Locust situation

High density 2nd, 3rd and 4th instar hopper bands were detected on 747 ha in 11 locations and controlled on 362 ha in the secured areas of West Darfur. Dense 1st and 2nd instar hopper bands were also detected on 1,550 ha in 5 locations during a

survey conducted in late July in Northern Darfur. Gregarious, mature copulating adult

locusts were also seen on 100 ha in Gambali (1412 37N/ 243902E), Northern Darfur, but control operation was not possible due to the security situation.

No locusts were found during ground surveys conducted in three locations in Northern Kordofan and no reports were received from the summer breeding areas.

Forecast

As a result of good rain that has been falling over the past couple of months in locust breeding areas across the western and northwestern parts of the country and more recently in the summer breeding areas, ecological conditions continued improving and will likely remain so over the coming weeks. Consequently, breeding will likely continue in Western and Northern Darfur and Northern Kordofan. Limited-scale breeding is also expected in the summer outbreak areas around Kassala and the Red Sea coast.

Proactive, preventive interventions, aided by vigilant survey, monitoring and rapid response are essential to avert any major outbreak in/from the western region.

Resources

PPD/Sudan has inventoried resources to respond to the current locust situation to the extent possible. It has also been exploring possibilities to use the UN or other facilities to conduct survey operations in inaccessible but critical areas.

Note on neighboring countries

Locusts were reported in eastern Chad, but flooding, banditry and theft further complicate the situation. An FAO consultant has been deployed to assist DPV/Chad with survey operations in the region and helicopters will soon be deployed to conduct survey/control operations in inaccessible areas in the region.

No report was received from Ethiopia or Eritrea during this period (19th-27th July).

AELGA will continue monitoring the situation and issue updates and recommendations as necessary.

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